

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change



Founded
in 1989

The Reporter

A quarterly
publication of OLOC

September 2018

Vol 28 #3

The Gathering Keynote Speaker Will Be Karen Williams!



Karen Williams is one of today's hottest comedy stars. She is known for her quick repartee, insightful commentary, audience rapport, and sheer likeability. Armed with her "healing with humor" philosophy, Karen is a modern-day alchemist and motivational humorist, whose audiences revel in her cathartic laughter and whose peers consider her a comic's comic. Karen also has the unique distinction of being the nation's first openly Lesbian Black comic to include specifically Lesbian material in her act.

An international comic favorite, Karen is a star entertainer with Olivia Travel, where she's garnered some 200 laugh-filled cruise and resort trips around the globe.

**Lesbians of Color Celebration
all day August 21, 2019.
OLOC full National Gathering
opens evening of August 21 and
ends midday August 25.**

(Continued on page 2)

Alix Dobkin Sings Women's Music!

"My career in women's music sprang from the soil of J.S. Bach, The Red Army Chorus, Louis Armstrong, and Broadway shows, topped off by the folk music scene of the 1960s, and has granted me a life rich, challenging, and satisfying beyond my wildest dreams" (from the Epilogue of *My Red Blood*, Lambda Literary Award Memoir Finalist). Focusing during the first decade on a traditional, international, and contemporary/protest repertory, I then came out as a Lesbian in 1972 and turned to writing and singing for women in general and to building Lesbian culture in particular.

Alix will give a concert during the Gathering.



María Cora Has Latin Music In Her Heart and Soul!

María Cora, who will entertain us at the Gathering, is a fascinating multi-talented artist, writer, poet, filmmaker, performer, and musician. She grew up in Puerto Rico, and Latin music was the soundtrack of her life. She came to the US to attend college and began singing in a friend's rock band just for fun, but Latin music was always in her heart and soul.



(Continued on page 2)

Karen — continued from page 1

I Need a Snack is a hilarious one-hour solo comedy special aired regularly on LOGO-TV. Karen is a featured comic in *We're Funny That Way*, the internationally acclaimed film shot at Buddies in Bad Times in Toronto and shown regularly on HBO, as well as a nominee for the 1999 GLAMA Award for her irreverent comedy CD, *human beings: what a concept*.

A comedy writer and former television host of the New York variety show *In The Life*, her writings appear in numerous anthologies, including *Joke Stew*, *Revolutionary Laughter*, *Out in All Directions*, and *Out, Loud, and Laughing*. Founder and CEO of the International Institute of Humor and Healing Arts (hahainstitute.com/), Karen has successfully branded the HaHA Institute as the go-to resource network for educational programs, workshops, and seminars focused on the healing power of humor.

Her keynote address, *The Healing Power of Humor*, will have you laughing! Humor is empowering! To cope in today's hectic world of technological explosions, a sense of humor is vital. The power of humor lies in its ability to restore vitality, preserve sanity, and strengthen self-identity. With humor, our busy and complex lives become manageable.

You will learn to

1. Understand the physiological benefits of laughter.
2. Utilize humor to reduce stress and "burnout."
3. Improve communication skills with others, using appropriate humor.

Don't miss it!

OLOC Chapters

OLOC chapters and groups as of September 1, 2018, are Arizona (meeting in Central Arizona); Coachella Valley/Palm Springs, California; San Francisco Bay Area, California; Radical Lesbian Crones (also Bay Area), California; Long Beach, California; Colorado; Washington, DC, Area; Boston Area, Massachusetts; Northampton/Pioneer Valley, Massachusetts; St. Louis, Missouri; New Mexico; Hudson Valley, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Central Ohio; OLOC/Rhode Island; Champlain Region of Vermont and New York; and Puget Sound Area, Washington. Others are forming.

OLOC would love to have more chapters/groups. Please contact ruth@oloc.org if you are west of the Mississippi and bonnie@oloc.org if you are east of the Mississippi.

(María — continued from page 1)

When María heard there was an all-women salsa band in the San Francisco Bay Area, she moved there in the 1980s, determined to be its lead singer.

Her inspired lead vocals have added pizzazz to many groups since she landed in the Bay Area, including Orquesta Sabrosita, Los Pleneros de la 24, Azúcar y Crema, Babacool, Once, Canto de Corazón, Different Touch, and Azúcar Con Aché ("Sweetness with powerful blessings").

Her versatile bilingual talent shines in work as diverse as principal narrator for the documentary *Every Child Is Born a Poet: The Life of Piri Thomas*, as writer/director and narrator for the short film *Negra Linda*, as vocalist on the Piri Thomas recording "No Mo' Barrio Blues," and as writer/actress of the play *Verbo Corazón: Latina Heart Rhythm*.

María has served as MC/host for a multitude of events, including the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, the San Francisco World Drum Festival, the Redwood Music Festival, and the Encuentro del Canto Popular. She has been honored with a La Estrella award, a Lesbian of Achievement and Vision (LAVA) award, a Prisma award for achievement in performing arts, and a WAMMIE Alternative Music award for Best Latin Band (with Azúcar y Crema).

On top of all that, María currently manages 13 older adult choirs for the Community Music Center in San Francisco.

Her performance is sure to rock your socks!



OLOC Reporter is published by Old Lesbians Organizing for Change:

- www.oloc.org; email: info@oloc.org
- PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498
- 888-706-7506

This Newsletter Brought to You By:

Co-Editors: Jennice Thomas, 1940, and Susan Wiseheart, 1941.

Proofreader and Copy-editor: Nancy Krody, 1939.

Content Review: Alix Dobkin, 1940, Sally Tatnall, 1937, and Jan Griesinger, 1942.

Design/Layout: Malinda McCain, 1940.

All of the writers and photographers.

Deadline for the next issue is November 1, 2018. Limit general submissions to 300 words. There will be no more member memorials in *The Reporter*, only announcements with name, birth and death years, and city and state of the Lesbians who died. See E-News for memorials. Contact us for the style guide (revised August 2018). We may edit articles for clarity and/or length. Send articles to OLOC: info@oloc.org or PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498.

Current Steering Committee Members Contact List

Co-Directors:

- Alix Dobkin, 1940, Woodstock, NY, alix@oloc.org, 845-679-7586
- Sally Tatnall, 1937, Lyndhurst, OH, sally@oloc.org, 216-862-0598

Steering Committee Members:

- Jan Griesinger, 1942, Athens, OH, jan@oloc.org, 740-592-1255
- Ruth Debra, 1944, Operations Coordinator, Palm Springs, CA, ruth@oloc.org, 760-318-6794
- Bonnie Wagner, 1942, Woodstock, NY, bonnie@oloc.org, 845-679-7710 or 845-417-1481
- Ali Marrero-Calderon, 1948, Oakland, CA, and Bayamon, Puerto Rico, ali@oloc.org, 510-365-6745

Who We Are: OLOC is an organization of Old Lesbians. We are dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Lesbian voice as well as increasing Lesbian visibility in a world that stifles it and threatens to erase it.

OLOC's Steering Committee welcomes constructive feedback and suggestions from members by way of mail, phone, or email. Please let us know if you would like a response.

This article is in response to a March 2018 article by Malinda McCain, 1940, titled "A Perennial Question," about names for Old Lesbians.

"Young Lady" Is No Compliment

By Jaqi Thompson, 1947

I worked as a toll taker on the Golden Gate Bridge from 1995 to 2011, when I retired. When customers called me "young lady" as if it were a compliment, I used to laugh and reply, "That's what my grandmother called me when I was five years old and had done something she didn't approve of." So "young lady" makes me think of getting a lecture.

Unfortunately, an older co-worker loved being called "young lady." She took it as a sincere and honest compliment. Her reaction contributed to customers' continuing to use "young lady," and they expected praise from the other toll takers. Of course, they only used it on the very oldest of us women, as if we were too stupid to notice that they reserved the term for the oldest of us.

So, when my laugh and reply didn't sink in, and the customer added, peevishly, "I meant it as a compliment," I only laughed again, and by then the whole time of paying toll/getting change/giving receipt had been used up and they had to drive off. That also helped me laugh it off and move on.

Dealing with Sleep Issues as We Age

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

I recommend *The Sleep Solution: Why Your Sleep Is Broken and How to Fix It* by W. Chris Winter.

Yes, I am having big sleep problems—hopefully none of you have these. Here are some important things in the book:

- Decreased memory function is associated with poor sleep.
- Age reduces the need for sleep. Adults over the age of 65 may require as little as five hours.
- Don't eat within three hours of bedtime—late snacks such as bananas, walnuts, milk, chamomile tea with honey are okay.
- No light—make your bedroom really dark.
- Get exercise in the morning in bright light—this has a positive effect on sleep.

OLOC Vision Statement

OLOC will be a cooperative community of Old Lesbian feminist activists from many backgrounds working for justice and the well-being of all Old Lesbians.



The following articles are from our new series on the many isms of discrimination.

Anti-Semitism: A Subtle and Persistent Discrimination

By Bonnie Wagner, 1942

Anti-Semitism is seldom mentioned when we talk about the “isms.” Those of us who are Jewish, however, experience this ism frequently. The assumption that we all celebrate Easter and Christmas as our holidays is one way in which our Jewish identity is ignored. Moreover, non-Jews often misunderstand about some Jewish mannerisms. Growing up in a Jewish household, we are often animated and passionate about our viewpoints and beliefs, and sometimes we interrupt others in the course of a discussion. This behavior is cultural and not intended rudeness.

A frequent stereotype about Jews is that we have money and are good at handling money. We are often recommended to serve on fundraising committees for this reason. But those who promote this stereotype also see us as greedy.

Jewish holidays do not receive the same respect as Christian holidays. No one would schedule a conference on Christmas Day, but major Jewish holidays such as Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are often ignored. The first conference on Lesbian battering was held on Yom Kippur. If a public event is held during Passover, matzoh as well as bread should be served. I was on an Olivia cruise during Passover, and there was only bread in the restaurants and on the buffet tables.

Jews are divided on Israeli policy, treatment of Arabs, and the creation of a Palestinian state. Not all Jews are Zionists, but many people assume that all Jews are the same. And recently, many revisionist views about the Holocaust attempt to negate our history by denying the brutal reality of the millions of Jews murdered.

Unlike People of Color, Jews are invisible, as are many Lesbians, because we can pass as being part of the mainstream culture. People who voice negative stereotypes about Jews do not always know who we are.

Immigration and Class

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

At a landscaping/nursery factory last June in Cleveland, Ohio, all workers were told to attend a meeting. Coffee and doughnuts were served. When everyone was gathered, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency swept in and arrested about 150 undocumented workers. The trickery used by ICE to trap hardworking people is a travesty.

The relationship of immigration to this country's race and class divide is apparent. Racism and classism demean people who are seen as not important. The US has a long history of having plenty of space for those who have value to us and who can afford to immigrate legally.

The workers being tricked do have value to the landscaping and nursery industry, but these employees are poor and working class people. In this culture, the poor do not matter. In this culture, there is no one of power to fight the battles of those with less economic status. Efforts to change this are met with severe opposition.

Does this societal treatment of poor and working people mean middle and upper class people have more value? Does it mean middle and upper class people know more? Can those with economic resources really erase the privilege that carried them to a place of value? Becoming a citizen of our country takes from \$4,000 to \$10,000. Poorly paid working people can never amass these sums.

Never deny this is both race- and class-based. Our country invites immigrants of color to work at cheap wages. Some People of Color are able to achieve education and move out of their class designation. Those not able to move out of their class status will forever be seen as less able. This is the legacy of race- and class-based valuing. We will never know what treasures have been lost.

The Cost of Racism

A national report released in April 2018 from the [WK. Kellogg Foundation](#) and Altarum, a nonprofit organization dedicated to transforming health and health care, found that the US economy would be \$8 trillion larger by 2050 if the country eliminated racial disparities in health, education, incarceration, and employment.



Honoring Jan Griesinger for Her Amazing Work

OLOC proudly invites you to a reception honoring long-time Steering Committee member Jan Griesinger, 1942, for her 55 years of activism in the peace and justice movement.

Jan has worked tirelessly to interrupt and stop racism, sexism, Eurocentrism, ageism, and ableism. She stands for peace and justice every Monday in front of the courthouse in Athens, Ohio. In seminary, 1967–1970, she was active against the Vietnam War.

As just a small part of her accomplishments, she co-founded:

- Dayton Women's Liberation, 1969
- Dayton Women's Health Center, 1973
- Dayton Women's Center, 1975
- My Sister's Place, Athens, 1978
- Ohio University Women's Studies Program, 1979
- Susan B. Anthony Women's Land Trust, 1979
- Central American Solidarity Committee, 1984
- Athens AIDS Task Force, 1986
- Alliance to Protect Human Rights and Equality, 1989
- Middle East Peace Coalition, 1990
- Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual Employees of Ohio University, 1992
- Calliope Feminist Choir, 1993
- Bridging the Diversity Gap, 1999
- Immigrant Rights Committee, 2008

She also has served the Appalachian Peace and Justice Network as Treasurer since 2007 and organized *A Faith for Future: A Feminist Perspective* conferences in Athens from 1984 to 1987.

The reception will take place on Saturday, October 6, 2018, 4–6 PM, at the Ohio University Inn, 331 Richland Avenue, Athens, Ohio. Light refreshments will be served. [Tickets](#) are on a sliding scale of \$40–\$100 and should be purchased by October 5 at 6 PM at www.eventbrite.com/e/oloc-reception-for-jan-griesinger-honoring-55-years-of-her-work-for-peace-and-justice-for-all-people-tickets-48170182312 or by sending a check to our Woodstock address.

If you are unable to attend, donations in Jan's honor are welcome and appreciated. Donations can be made at oloc.org/ or the Eventbrite link, by check to our Woodstock address, or by calling Ruth at 760-318-6794.

We hope to see you there to honor this amazing woman!



Next Steering Committee Meeting

The next National Steering Committee in-person meeting will be October 4–8, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio. The Committee also meets regularly by conference call between the semi-annual in-person meetings. If there are topics you want the Committee to address, contact the Steering Committee by email at info@oloc.org, a note to the PO Box in Woodstock, New York, or a phone call to 888-706-7506. Be sure to say if you want a response.

Senior Bullying

By Jan Griesinger, 1942

Our local [Athens, Ohio] newspaper ran an article: "A Surprising Bullying Battleground: Senior Centers." I learned that senior centers are starting to use anti-bullying programs.

A woman at Glen St. Andrew Living Community said she was the victim of relentless bullying by residents who focused on her being a Lesbian. She dropped out of high school when she was bullied because students found out that she was a Lesbian. She was even more horrified to find bullying among residents in senior housing. Lambda Legal, which defends LGBTQ rights, took on the case and sued Glen St. Andrew. A federal judge dismissed the suit last year, and an appeals court decision is pending.

Maybe this is a topic we need to discuss. Send comments to us at info@oloc.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seeking Nominations for Award

The Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award will be presented at the 2019 National Gathering in Columbus, Ohio. We are now seeking nominations.

Del Martin, 1921, activist, pathfinder, and OLOC member, died at age 87 on August 27, 2008, in San Francisco, the city of her birth. The \$500 Award created in her honor will be presented to a Lesbian 70 years or older whose life and work have impacted and will continue to impact the lives of Old Lesbians.



Del was out, proud, and unapologetic when few were. She and her lifetime partner, Phyllis Lyon, forged an enduring image that continues to inspire generations of Lesbians around the globe.

Guidelines for nominations:

1. Nominations should describe the outstanding accomplishments and/or achievements of the nominee in 500 words or less. Send by email to info@oloc.org (preferred) or regular mail to PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498.
2. Nominations must be postmarked by April 15, 2019.
3. The Award will be given to an Old Lesbian over the age of 70 at OLOC's National Gathering to be held in Columbus, Ohio, August 21–25, 2019.
4. Nominations are worldwide and for an Old Lesbian in any field of endeavor.
5. Nominee's life and work must impact the lives of Old Lesbians.
6. Nominees must be alive at the time of nomination.

Past nominees who were not selected may be nominated again. Registration fee, excluding international travel and meals not covered by registration fees, will be paid for the winner and her partner, if any, to attend the Columbus Gathering.

Thank you for helping to ensure that we keep Del Martin's legacy alive.

Girlstown Honors Mina and Sharon

Mina Kay Meyer (deceased) and Sharon M. Raphael, 1941, now have their names permanently engraved on a wall located in Harvey Milk Promenade Park in Long Beach, California. On May 17, they were among six LGBTQ+ leaders from the Long Beach community who were inducted onto the newly designed Equality Plaza Honor Wall at the Park. The City of Long Beach, via the Mayor's Office, honored them with the Harvey Milk Award for their "exceptional or outstanding contributions to the greater Long Beach area LGBTQ+ community."

Sharon is OLOC's Research Gatekeeper and a proud OLOC member. Mina, 1940–2016, was Co-Director of OLOC's Steering Committee for six years and made it part of her mission to place disabled Old Lesbians' needs at the top of her list.



Sharon wore an OLOC pin at the big ceremony. Harvey, a gay civil rights hero and San Francisco Supervisor, was assassinated while in office in 1978. Sharon enjoys having an award in Harvey Milk's name. She stated, "Harvey had many Old Women supporters when he ran for office. He was aware of Old Women's issues and Lesbians of all ages. He did not hide behind class, gender, or race. That is a reason why I remember Harvey fondly. I met him only once. He was a down-to-earth person, but one you remembered."

The park was redesigned after undergoing improvements to make it a space that connects people through a shared sense of purpose. The redesign is part of a larger City-led initiative to connect people and institutions through more open, diverse, and inclusive public spaces for people to gather.

Long Beach has repeatedly been recognized by the Human Rights Campaign for upholding LGBT rights in its municipal laws and policies.

What a great contribution these two have made to their LGBTQ+ community and beyond!



MEMORIALS

By Sally Tatnall, 1937

Dear OLOC members and supporters:

We are receiving more and more memorial notices and stories and want to do all we can to honor these. We will continue to put the notices in *The Reporter*, but from now on, the accompanying details will appear in the monthly E-News.

Passings

Connie Kurtz, 1936–2018

West Palm Beach, Florida

Linda Sue Sophia Smith, 1938–2018

Drury, Missouri

Betty “Jo” Hiner, 1926–2018

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Lucia “Kim” Kimber, 1933–2018

Fairfield, Connecticut

Melanie Kaye/Kantrowitz, 1945–2018

Woodstock, New York

Bea Howard, 1932–2018

Berkeley, California

Angela Bowen, 1936–2018

Long Beach, California

Jackie Grover, 1943–2018

Long Beach, California

Pat Nitsos, 1940–2018

Westminster, California

Barbara Kalish, 1929–2018

Long Beach, California

National Women’s Music Festival

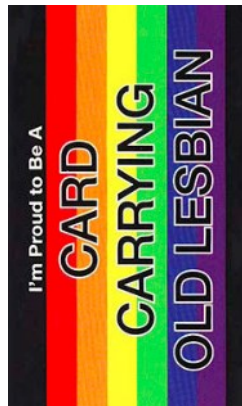
By Bonnie Wagner, 1942, and Ruth Debra, 1944

We (Bonnie and Ruth) attended the National Women’s Music Festival in Middleton, Wisconsin, in July. The vast majority of attendees at this event are Old Lesbians. We did a workshop on OLOC that about 20 Lesbians attended. We focused on the upcoming Gathering and had a lengthy discussion about activism. All of the participants described the events, marches, and demonstrations they had participated in on the local level. This was a lively discussion, and people seemed excited to hear about the 2019 Gathering.

We encouraged everyone to join OLOC, and we distributed *Reporters*, brochures, and the rainbow cards.

I (Bonnie) frequently talked to women there about OLOC and gave out materials. Ruth passed out OLOC materials at her [t-shirt business] booth. At the artists’ breakfast, I was seated next to women from Columbus. They were very interested in the upcoming Gathering, and we hope they will attend.

The National Women’s Music Festival is a great event for OLOC to be involved with. It is a haven for Old Lesbians and their dogs.



OLOC works for change by supporting:

- comprehensive immigration reform
- elimination of violence against women
- enactment of universal single-payer healthcare for all
- an end to corporate “personhood”
- an end to any curtailment of voting rights
- the Black Lives Matter movement
- the Say Her Name! movement

If you now receive The Reporter in one format and want to switch to or add the other (print and electronic), please email susan@oloc.org; write to OLOC at POB 834, Woodstock, NY 12498; or phone 888-706-7506.

Here are some of the organizations the Steering Committee of OLOC recommends our members support:

Presente, presente.org
One Billion Rising, onebillionrising.org
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), ncadv.org
Healthcare Now, healthcare-now.org
End Citizens United, endcitizensunited.org
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), naacp.org
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), aclu.org
Black Lives Matter, blacklivesmatter.com
Say Her Name, aapf.org/sayhername
Black Women Rise, blackwomenrise.net
Race Forward, www.raceforward.org
NIA Collective, niacollective.org
ZAMI NOBLA, zaminobla.org



Chapter News

The Steering Committee urges all OLOC chapters to suggest strongly to all of your members that they join National OLOC.

USING ART TO CELEBRATE MEMORY Colorado Chapter

By Katherine Wood, 1954

In May, our chapter celebrated our 25th year. We had speakers, music, laughter, and sighs as stories were told and we remembered those 25 years. Janet Gilmore, 1948, the chair of the anniversary party, created a ceremony to remember our sisters who are no longer with us. All agreed that it was a very touching afternoon.

As part of the celebration, each member created her own banner. These banners were strung together along with banners denoting historical moments. They decorated the walls around the room. Shari Wilkins, 1947, and Deborah McNair, 1952, provided beautiful flower arrangements and candles for each table.

Janet Gilmore made a beautiful "We Remember Her" quilt. Each leaf on the quilt represents a sister who has passed into eternal OLOC.

Cutting the cake (below) are members Carmah Lawler, 1929, who has belonged to our chapter since 1994, and Mary Jo Osterman, 1941, whose partner, D.J. Furnish, was one of our three founders. She has been part of our chapter since 2001.

In June, the chapter heard from guest Mia Furtado, who spoke about a seven-step action plan white allies can follow to help dismantle racism, a timely topic in this political climate.

Sue Olmsted, 1943, hosted us at her beautiful mountain home for our annual weenie roast in July. Trish Bangert, 1949, our political updater, provided a 1950s video and spoke



about all things politically impacting Old Lesbians. In August, our chapter attended a Lesbian dance in Boulder.

To find OLOC on Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/NationalOLOC

MARCHING WITH PRIDE AND PLANNING OUR FUTURE

Massachusetts Pioneer Valley Chapter

By Emily Greene, 1946

The front page of the *Greenfield Recorder* on June 25 read "A Sea of Rainbow Flags Marches Through." Our second annual Pride Day march was a huge success, with hundreds marching to Energy Park for a rally, followed by a tea dance and a nighttime concert. Our group also proudly marched in the famous Northampton Pride Parade.

June was a busy month, with an excellent monthly meeting presentation on classism by Jean, Connie, and Carol. We looked at how we grew up: Was it in poverty, working class, middle class, or upper class? And how does this impact us, even today? We broke into small groups and discussed how many of us in retirement have dropped to poverty level, barely surviving on our Social Security check.

In July, Lynne presented Part 2 of the Aging Brain. A small group is organizing our Mini Michfest week of camping in the Berkshires. This year, 22 signed up. We were also invited to join the Hudson Valley Chapter at their summer picnic in Woodstock, New York.

Another small group has been meeting regularly to explore the possibility of some of us moving closer together to form an aging Lesbian community. Do we want a communal house or separate spaces? Where should this community be located? And how can we create the space to stay active, engaged, and with the access we need to age in place? We talked with local agencies, looked at apartment buildings, senior centers, and a house big enough for the six of us. We have lots more to explore as we hope to make this dream a reality. We always come back to our gratitude for an organization like OLOC that helps us stay connected.



Chapter News (cont.)

MARCHING TO PERSIST AND RESIST Hudson Valley Chapter

By Retts Scauzillo, 1953

On Saturday, March 24, the Hudson Valley OLOC Chapter marched to support gun control legislation and young people nationally. Fifteen of us held our banner high and marched three miles to demonstrate our solidarity with the students in Parkland, Florida.

We produced a concert at the LGBTQ Center on May 20 featuring Nia and Ness with Nedra Johnson. Nia and Ness are a Black Lesbian dancer/poet/performance-art duo based in Brooklyn, New York. Nedra Johnson is a singer/songwriter multi-instrumentalist living in New York City. We are hoping to produce more Lesbian concerts in the future. In addition to presenting live concerts, Hudson Valley OLOC screened the film *Radical Harmonies*, an important and entertaining tribute to women's music. Many in the audience had been unaware of the power and influence of this movement that helped organize Lesbians in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s.

Bonnie Wagner, 1942, and Alix Dobkin, 1940, attended a trial of a local African-American woman who was arrested for trespassing during a demonstration at Congressman Faso's office.

We participated in the Hudson Valley Pride March on Sunday, June 3. Twenty members walked behind the OLOC banner in New Paltz, New York. The theme of the March was *Stand Together*.

We also marched in Woodstock, New York, on June 30 to protest the government's treatment of immigrants and the practice of separating children from their parents at the border. Alix Dobkin sang two songs at the rally and was well received. Hudson Valley OLOC is committed to fighting for immigrants who come to our country, a land of immigrants.

Hudson Valley OLOC is continuing to RESIST when we can and uphold the mission statement of National OLOC.



PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS/FUTURE PLANS Boston Chapter

By Sue Reamer, 1942

Our final meeting of the 2017–18 year was on Sunday, May 6. The topic was “What’s Happening? Resisting the Assault on America II.” After last year’s standing-room-only crowd at the first “Resisting the Assault on America,” Boston OLOC felt it was time to revisit the ways in which this Administration is assaulting America. We had a wonderful panel of expert speakers who explained how their organizations are responding and resisting these attacks on the rights of the most vulnerable among us. The organizations represented were the ACLU Foundation; the labor union SEIU Local 509; GLAD (GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders); and the Immigration Unit of the Greater Boston Legal Services; as well as a disability rights activist. Attendance was about 60, with a lively discussion following the presentations.

Our Planning Committee met in late June to go over our 2018–19 programming. We do not have meetings in June, July, and August and will resume meetings in September with a Reunion Luncheon.

Proposed programming for 2018–19:

Sept. 2: Reunion Luncheon.

Oct. 7: Film by Vito Russo, *The Celluloid Closet*, followed by discussion.

Nov. 4: Elder Abuse (panel on financial, emotional, micro-aggressions).

Dec. 2: Creative at Any Age—Cross-generational readings.

Jan. 6: Panel on feminist history.

Feb. 3: Medical/Legal Documents—End of Life Wishes (wills, powers of attorney, health proxies).

March 3: Aging? How to “age-in-place.”

April 7: Social lunch.

May 5: Political topic or film.

OLOC Mission Statement

To eliminate the oppression of ageism and to stand in solidarity against all oppressions.



Chapter News (cont.)

VARIED ACTIVITIES KEEP US ENGAGED San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

By Susan Chacin, 1945

San Francisco Bay Area OLOC has over 400 women on our mailing list and we see 30–45 at events. We couldn't hold retreats this year because the camp where we met was damaged in the Napa wildfires, and we have not found a replacement. We hope to return to Enchanted Hills when it reopens.

To make up for that, we've added extra events. A day-long event on June 3 featured a salon at which members presented their writing and art. Our annual picnic was on July 22 and again proved to be a good way for new women to check us out. An afternoon dance is planned for September 16 with member Judy Graboyes as DJ.

Day-long get-togethers are the core of our program, held at least three times each year. We check in with each other in the morning, enjoy a catered lunch, and engage in a structured afternoon program. Recent topics were "How our lives have intersected with the social movements of our times, such as civil rights, women's liberation, and Lesbian and gay rights" and "Experiences and feelings about asking for help, being asked for help, offering help, and receiving help."

Bay Area OLOC participated again this year as a community partner in the Queer Women of Color Media Arts Project film festival in June, and members attended the Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women & Transgender Community Lunar New Year Banquet. We marched in the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade on June 24 behind National OLOC Steering Committee member Ali Marrero-Calderon, 1948. She organized a Puerto Rican Lesbians and Allies contingent. Ali is the 2018 Gilbert Baker Pride Founders' Awardee. Check out Ali's insightful video on the SF Pride website (www.sfpride.org/). OLOC member Jewelle Gomez, 1948, also has an interview there.

OLOC is supported in part by grants from the Carpenter Foundation, the Horizons Foundation, and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota.

BRIEF REPORT FROM VERMONT AND NEW YORK

Champlain Valley of VT and NY Chapter

By Madeleine Winterfalcon, 1950

In August our chapter went to the Morgan Horse Farm open house. We'll report more activities in the next issue.

DC CHAPTER DEMONSTRATES

Washington Metro Area OLOC Chapter

By Carol Anne Douglas, 1946

Although the Washington Metro Area OLOC chapter has seen some members move away, there are always demonstrations to attend. Two members went to the Keep Families Together protest on June 30. Thousands of people of all ages crowded Lafayette Square despite the high heat. Messages on signs asked if we are living in Nazi Germany. One sign quoted Leviticus on being good to the stranger. Signs showed pictures of children behind bars. We met two young Lesbians who were delighted to hear the name "Old Lesbians Organizing for Change." We could scarcely hear the speeches because there was such a crowd. After the rally, there was a march.

On the evening of July 18, one of us attended a vigil in front of the White House demanding an end to corruption. Demonstrators held up large orange letters spelling out T-R-E-A-S-O-N. Signs said "No One Is Above the Law." The speakers included Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill.; Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn.; and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-RI. With about 2,000 demonstrators present, it was possible to get close enough to hear the speeches. The speakers said the corruption in the present administration is unprecedented and that Brett Kavanaugh should not be confirmed for the Supreme Court because, among many other things, he believes that a president should not be investigated.

We are currently seeking more members.

OLOC Membership (as of 10-23-2015): National OLOC welcomes as members Old Lesbians who have reached their 60th year.



OLOC Membership/Supporter Form

We welcome everyone as either a member or a supporter, whether or not you can send money now. To be a member, you must be in your 60th year or older and be a Lesbian. Anyone who is not an Old Lesbian is welcome as a supporter. Membership or support is for one year. You will receive issues of our publications, the OLOC *Reporter* (quarterly) and the OLOC E-News (monthly), if you want them. We need to hear from you each year to keep you active. Both members of a couple may use this form.

Name #1 _____

- I am not sending money at this time, but I am an Old Lesbian and want to be a member for the coming year.
- I am sending this amount _____ (suggest \$25–\$50) for membership (more if you can, less if you can't).
- I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30–\$60 for one year (more if you can, less if you can't). Amount _____

Name #2 _____

- I am not sending money at this time, but I am an Old Lesbian and want to be a member for the coming year.
- I am sending this amount _____ (suggest \$25–\$50) for membership (more if you can, less if you can't).
- I am not qualified for OLOC membership but would like to be a supporter. Suggested donation for supporters is \$30–\$60 for one year (more if you can, less if you can't). Amount _____

Please include demographics (date of birth, race/ethnicity, disability status) here to help us in obtaining grants and achieving diversity (we never give out names of members or supporters to anyone outside OLOC).

Date of birth _____
Race/ethnicity _____
Disability status _____

Date of birth _____
Race/ethnicity _____
Disability status _____

Address _____ City _____ State or _____ Zip or _____
Out of United States? Country _____ province postal
(If needed, write 2nd address on back.)

Telephone _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Email _____

New to OLOC? Yes No

New to OLOC? Yes No

I would like to receive the *Reporter* as (circle one)
print copy / electronic / both / neither

I prefer to receive the *Reporter* as (circle one)
print copy / electronic / both / neither

I would like to receive the monthly E-News by email
and have given my email address above.
Yes No

I would like to receive the monthly E-News by email
and have given my email address above.
Yes No

To pay with a credit card or a PayPal account, go to www.oloc.org and click Donate. You do not need a PayPal account to use a credit card there. If a couple is paying, please include both names in the purpose/comments section. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO OLOC and send to OLOC, PO Box 834, Woodstock, NY 12498. All money sent is considered a donation and is tax deductible for those who itemize.

Skills I can offer OLOC _____

Skills I can offer OLOC _____

I already belong to the following OLOC chapter or
group _____

I already belong to the following OLOC chapter or
group _____

I would love to have an OLOC chapter near me and
could help work toward establishing one. Yes No

I would love to have an OLOC chapter near me and
could help work toward establishing one. Yes No

I found out about OLOC from _____

I found out about OLOC from _____


If you have a different address during different seasons of the year, please give us details as the post office will not forward your newsletters and OLOC will have to pay for them to be returned to us.

OLOC
PO Box 834
Woodstock, NY 12498

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Time to Renew? Check
your label* →

If it says 2018.09 (meaning
September 2018) or earlier,
your membership or support
has ended and it is time to
renew.



Next OLOC National Gathering in Columbus, Ohio, August 21–25, 2019

**LOC Celebration (LOC only),
daytime August 21**
—thanks to a generous bequest
from Dottie Fowler (1927–2013),
the Celebration is free.
**Full Gathering begins August 21
in the evening and ends
midday on August 25.**